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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC), in Florida, to measure the preparedness of Dade County Public School (DCPS) graduates for the state's community colleges and universities. Data was compiled from Basic Skills Tests taken by all first-time-in-college students attending Florida community colleges and universities during academic years 1991-92 and 1992-93. The analysis showed that the proportion of DCPS test-takers passing the mathematics, reading, and writing sections of the skills test decreased from 42.5% in 1991 to 39.4% in 1992, while the number of students not ready in all three areas increased 9.5%, from 4,097 in 1991 to 4,448 in 1992. Moreover, DCPS pass rates were lower than rates in the rest of the state for both years. Approximately 76% of the DCPS graduates attended MDCC, with the number of unprepared DCPS graduates at the college increasing by 113 in mathematics, 416 in writing, 453 in reading, and 346 in all subjects from 1991 to 1992. Given the institutional cost per credit hour for college prep courses of $57.10 in 1993, it is estimated that the underprepared DCPS graduates alone would add between $224,289 and $448,578 to the cost of education at MDCC during 1992-93. Finally, analyses by race and ethnicity also indicated that DCPS graduates in all categories performed worse than their counterparts in the state. (KP)

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Readiness of Dade County High School Graduates for College

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MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE-INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

INFORMATION CAPSULE

I.C. No. 94-09C

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Introduction

This report continues to monitor the preparedness of Dade County Public School (DCPS) graduates for Florida's Community Colleges and Universities. Data are based on the Basic Skills Tests taken by all first-time-in-college (FTIC) students attending Florida's Community Colleges and Universities during the academic years 1991-92 and 1992-93.

The number of DCPS graduates with standard diplomas increased from 13,895 in 1991-92 to 14,107 in 1992-93 -- an increase of 212 graduates or 1.5%. At the same time, the number of DCPS graduates attending Florida's Public Community Colleges and Universities increased from 7,359 in 1991-92 to 7,595 in 1992-93 -- an increase of 236 graduates or 3.2%. Therefore, the Public Community Colleges and Universities in Florida gained ground in the recruitment of DCPS graduates in 1992-93, as the college-going rate among DCPS graduates increased from 53% in 1991-92 to 54% in 1992-93.

The main questions to be examined in this report are: (i) how are Dade County Public School graduates performing over time? (ii) how do Dade County Public School graduates compare with their counterparts in the tri-county area? (iii) how do Dade County Public School graduates attending Miami-Dade Community College compare with those attending other Florida Community Colleges and Universities? and (iv) are there any differences in the performance of Dade County Public School graduates by race and ethnicity?

Trends in the Performance of DCPS Graduates

Table 1 provides data on the performance of DCPS graduates on the Basic Skills Tests taken in 1991 and 1992. The proportion of test-takers passing all three subjects decreased from 42.5% in 1991 to 39.4% in 1992, while the number of students not ready in all three subjects increased from 4,097 in 1991 to 4,488 in 1992 -- an increase of 391 students or 9.5%.

The DCPS pass rate in Math stayed essentially the same: 57.8% in 1991 and 58.1% in 1992. At the same time, the pass rates in Reading and Writing declined, while the number of students not ready increased. The pass rate in Reading declined from 63.1% in 1991 to 57.6% in 1992, while the number of students not ready increased by 509. In Writing, the pass rate declined from 67.4% in 1991 to 62.8% in 1992, while the number of students not ready increased by 432. These increases in the number of DCPS graduates not ready for college imply increasing expenditures on remedial courses at the colleges and universities which they attend.

THIS INFORMATION CAPSULE IS A BRIEF, COMPLETE REPORT

The Performance of High School Graduates From the Tri-County Area

Table 1 also provides data on the relative performance of graduates from Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach County, and the rest of the State of Florida. In each of the categories examined, pass rates for DCPS graduates were worse than their counterparts in Broward and Palm Beach County, and in the rest of the State of Florida. In both 1991 and 1992, graduates from Palm Beach County recorded the highest pass rates overall and in Math (67.8% and 80.5%, respectively, in 1992), while the graduates from Broward County recorded the highest pass rates in Writing and Reading (86.0% and 84.6%, respectively, in 1992).

The Performance of DCPS Graduates Attending M-DCC Versus Other Colleges and Universities in Florida

Table 2 provides data on the relative performance of DCPS graduates attending Miami-Dade Community College and other public community colleges and universities in Florida. In both 1991 and 1992, approximately 76% of the FTIC students from DCPS attended M-DCC, 4% attended other public community colleges and 20% attended public universities. Of those attending community colleges other than M-DCC in 1992, the highest proportion went to Broward C.C. (2.6%), while the highest proportion attending the public universities went to Florida International University (7.7%) and the University of Florida (5.5%). In general, the pass rates for DCPS students attending the public community colleges were lower than those attending the public universities, except for Florida A&M University. This suggests that the better prepared DCPS students were attending the public universities.

Among the community colleges, the pass rates for DCPS graduates attending M-DCC were generally lower than those attending Broward C.C. and other community colleges. In 1992, the pass rates overall for DCPS graduates were 27.3% for those attending M-DCC, 38.5% for those attending Broward C.C., and 28.5% for those attending other community colleges. Corresponding pass rates for the public universities (except FAMU) ranged from approximately 82% for Florida International University and the University of South Florida, to 96% for Florida State University. The pass rate for FAMU was 57.1%.

In 1992, the number of DCPS graduates attending M-DCC who were not ready increased by 113 in Math, 416 in Writing, 453 in Reading, and 346 in all subjects. The number of courses required to complete college preparatory Math, Writing, and Reading at M-DCC range from one to two (4-credit) courses in each subject. Given the institutional cost per credit hour for college prep courses of $57.10 in 1993,[1] it is estimated that the underprepared FTIC graduates from DCPS alone would add between $224,289 and $448,578 to the cost of education at M-DCC during the 1992-93 and subsequent academic years.

The Performance of DCPS Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Table 3 provides data on the relative performance of graduates from Dade County and the rest of the State of Florida by race and ethnicity. In 1991 and 1992, DCPS provided approximately 30% of the Black non-Hispanic graduates attending the public colleges and universities in Florida, 69% of the Hispanic graduates, 7% of the White non-Hispanic graduates, and 16% of the Asian graduates. In each of the four major racial/ethnic groups -- Black non-Hispanic, White non-Hispanic, Hispanic, and Asian -- DCPS graduates generally performed worse than their counterparts in the rest of the State of Florida. Also, the pass rates in Math, Reading, Writing and all subjects were generally lower among Black and Hispanic graduates, and higher among White and Asian graduates.

In 1992, for example, 64.8% of the White graduates from DCPS and 68.7% of those from the rest of the State were ready in all subjects; 53.4% of the Asian graduates from DCPS and 67.6% of those from the rest of the State were ready in all subjects; 36.7% of the Hispanic graduates from DCPS and 58.2% of those from the rest of the State were ready in all subjects; and 24.2% of the Black graduates from DCPS and 40.3% of those from the rest of the State were ready in all subjects.

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[1]Using the full cost of instruction from M-DCC's State Cost Analysis Report.

Table 1

Readiness for College Based on Entry-Level Placement Tests Taken in 1991-92 and 1992-93 by Students Who Graduated from Public Schools in Broward, Dade, and Palm Beach County

	Public Schools							
	Dade County		Broward County		Palm Beach County		Rest of State	
	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93
Number of FTIC Students	7,359	7,595	3,539	3,447	1,917	2,132	23,088	22,580
Number Tested	7,121	7,406	3,357	3,270	1,891	2,107	22,101	21,897
Change in Number Tested		285		(87)		216		(204)
Mathematics								
Number Ready	4,118	4,304	2,437	2,376	1,456	1,696	16,726	16,140
Percent Ready*	57.8%	58.1%	72.6%	72.7%	77.0%	80.5%	75.7%	73.7%
Number Not Ready	3,003	3,102	920	894	435	411	5,376	5,757
Change in Number Not Ready		99		(26)		(24)		381
Writing								
Number Ready	4,797	4,650	2,946	2,811	1,584	1,716	17,804	17,693
Percent Ready*	67.4%	62.8%	87.8%	86.0%	83.8%	81.4%	80.6%	80.8%
Number Not Ready	2,324	2,756	411	459	307	391	4,298	4,204
Change in Number Not Ready		432		48		84		(94)
Reading								
Number Ready	4,490	4,266	2,920	2,767	1,598	1,720	18,445	18,119
Percent Ready*	63.1%	57.6%	87.0%	84.6%	84.5%	81.6%	83.5%	82.7%
Number Not Ready	2,631	3,140	437	503	293	387	3,657	3,778
Change in Number Not Ready		509		66		94		121
All Subjects								
Number Ready	3,024	2,918	2,224	2,097	1,286	1,429	14,153	13,803
Percent Ready*	42.5%	39.4%	66.2%	64.1%	68.0%	67.8%	64.0%	63.0%
Number Not Ready	4,097	4,488	1,133	1,173	605	678	7,949	8,094
Change in Number Not Ready		391		40		73		145

*Refers to percent of test takers.

Note: Some community colleges had incomplete entry-level test data.

Source: Readiness for College. A Postsecondary Feedback Report to Florida Public High Schools and School Districts, 1991-92 and 1992-93. Office of Postsecondary Education Coordination, Florida Department of Education.

Table 2

Readiness for College Based on Entry-Level Placement Tests Taken in 1991-92 and 1992-93 by Dade County Public School Students at Selected Colleges and Universities in Florida

	Selected Colleges and Universities in Florida																	
	Miami-Dade Community College		Broward Community College		Other Community Colleges		FIU		UF		FSU		FAMU		Other Universities		Total	
	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93
Number of Dade FTIC Students	5,617	5,777	194	196	121	135	523	583	391	414	225	228	154	98	134	164	7,359	7,595
Percent of Dade FTIC Students	76.3%	76.1%	2.6%	2.6%	1.6%	1.8%	7.1%	7.7%	5.3%	5.5%	3.1%	3.0%	2.1%	1.3%	1.8%	2.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Number Tested	5,407	5,622	175	174	112	123	523	583	391	414	225	228	154	98	134	164	7,121	7,406
Change in Number Tested		215		(1)		11		60		23		3		(56)		30		285
Mathematics																		
Number Ready	2,645	2,747	82	89	47	71	512	542	380	404	216	223	109	76	118	152	4,118	4,304
Percent Ready *	48.9%	48.9%	46.9%	51.1%	42.0%	57.7%	97.9%	93.0%	97.2%	97.6%	96.6%	97.8%	70.8%	77.6%	88.1%	92.7%	57.8%	58.1%
Number Not Ready	2,762	2,875	93	85	65	52	11	41	11	10	10	5	45	22	16	12	3,003	3,102
Change in Number Not Ready		113		(8)		(13)		30		(1)		(5)		(23)		(4)		99
Writing																		
Number Ready	3,270	3,069	135	124	62	62	510	534	382	406	218	224	89	75	131	156	4,787	4,850
Percent Ready *	60.5%	54.6%	77.1%	71.3%	55.4%	50.4%	97.5%	91.6%	97.7%	98.1%	96.9%	98.2%	57.8%	76.5%	97.8%	95.1%	67.4%	62.8%
Number Not Ready	2,137	2,553	40	50	50	61	13	49	9	8	7	4	65	23	3	8	2,324	2,756
Change in Number Not Ready		416		10		11		36		(1)		(3)		(42)		5		432
Reading																		
Number Ready	2,946	2,708	125	121	69	67	521	522	382	402	215	224	101	74	131	148	4,490	4,266
Percent Ready *	54.5%	48.2%	71.4%	69.5%	61.6%	54.5%	99.6%	89.5%	97.7%	97.1%	95.6%	98.2%	65.6%	75.5%	97.8%	90.2%	63.1%	57.6%
Number Not Ready	2,461	2,914	50	53	43	-190	2	61	9	12	10	4	53	24	3	16	2,631	3,140
Change in Number Not Ready		453		3		(233)		59		3		(6)		(29)		13		509
All Subjects																		
Number Ready	1,668	1,537	64	67	31	35	499	478	368	389	206	218	64	56	124	138	3,024	2,918
Percent Ready *	30.8%	27.3%	36.6%	38.5%	27.7%	28.5%	95.5%	82.0%	94.1%	94.0%	91.6%	95.6%	41.6%	57.1%	92.5%	84.1%	42.5%	39.4%
Number Not Ready	3,739	4,085	111	107	81	88	24	105	23	25	19	10	90	42	10	26	4,097	4,488
Change in Number Not Ready		346		(4)		7		81		2		(9)		(48)		16		391

* Refers to the percent of test takers.

Note: Some community colleges had incomplete entry-level test data.

Source: Readiness for College. A Postsecondary Feedback Report to Florida Public High Schools and School Districts, 1991-92 and 1992-93. Office of Postsecondary Education Coordination, Florida Department of Education.

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Table 3

Readiness for College Based on Entry-Level Placement Test Taken in 1991-92 and 1992-93 by Ethnicity of Students Who Graduated From Public Schools in Dade County and the Rest of the State of Florida

	Ethnicity																			
	White Non-Hispanic				Black Non-Hispanic				Hispanic				Asian or Pacific Islander				Other			
	Dade County		Rest of State		Dade County		Rest of State		Dade County		Rest of State		Dade County		Rest of State		Dade County		Rest of State	
	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93	1991-92	1992-93
No. of FTIC Students	1,485	1,397	21,381	20,716	1,745	1,784	4,281	4,252	3,812	4,200	1,742	1,882	186	182	973	1,087	22	9	187	106
Number Tested	1,418	1,354	20,541	20,102	1,702	1,747	4,049	4,107	3,795	4,093	1,650	1,802	184	181	947	1,034	22	8	163	102
Mathematics (No. Ready)	1,007	1,053	16,084	15,475	788	773	2,467	2,381	2,151	2,302	1,143	1,385	157	156	820	899	15	7	105	68
Mathematics (% Ready)*	71.0%	77.8%	78.3%	77.0%	46.3%	44.2%	60.9%	57.5%	56.7%	56.2%	69.3%	72.6%	85.3%	81.7%	86.6%	86.9%	68.2%	87.5%	64.4%	64.7%
Writing (No. Ready)	1,189	1,116	17,651	17,293	898	820	2,523	2,568	2,549	2,554	1,258	1,441	143	141	777	818	18	7	125	78
Writing (% Ready)*	83.9%	82.4%	85.9%	86.0%	52.8%	46.9%	62.3%	62.5%	67.2%	62.4%	76.2%	75.8%	77.7%	73.8%	82.0%	79.1%	81.8%	87.5%	76.7%	74.6%
Reading (No. Ready)	1,169	1,088	18,219	17,617	804	690	2,559	2,608	2,363	2,357	1,299	1,469	136	119	758	818	18	4	126	72
Reading (% Ready)*	82.4%	80.4%	88.7%	87.6%	47.2%	39.5%	63.2%	63.5%	62.3%	57.6%	78.7%	77.2%	73.9%	62.3%	80.0%	79.1%	81.8%	50.0%	78.5%	70.6%
All Subjects (No. Ready)	882	877	14,282	13,801	478	423	1,700	1,654	1,530	1,504	932	1,107	120	102	667	699	14	4	82	47
All Subjects (% Ready)*	62.2%	64.8%	69.5%	68.7%	28.1%	24.2%	42.0%	40.3%	40.3%	36.7%	56.5%	58.2%	65.2%	53.4%	70.4%	67.6%	63.6%	50.0%	50.3%	46.1%

*Refers to percent of test takers.

Note: Some community colleges had incomplete entry-level data.

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